

Sandra Blakely

Associate Professor and Chair

Department of Classics, Emory University 221 F Candler Library Atlanta, GA 30322

Research Interests

Religion and magic of the Greek and Roman worlds; anthropological and comparative approaches to the ancient Mediterranean; archaeological theory; cognitive science and religion; digital approaches to antiquity, including ArcGIS, Social Network Analysis, and gaming; historiography; archaeometallurgy.

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
PhD, Classics and Anthropology, 1998

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
BA, German and Humanities, 1982

Books

In preparation *The Anthropology of an Island Cult: Maritime Networks and the cult of the Great Gods of Samothrace*

2015 *Alexander Polyhistor (BNJ 273)*, Leiden: Brill

2011 *Conon (BNJ 26)*, Leiden: Brill

2009 *Herodorus (BNJ 31)*, Leiden: Brill

2006 *Myth, Ritual and Metallurgy in Ancient Greece and Recent Africa*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Articles

In press: "Metallurgy between myth and production: cognized and operational craft in the Northeastern Aegean," *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Classical Archaeology*

2020 "Accumulation, authority, and the cultural lives of objects: materiality and ancient religion," *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 21: 125-126

2020 "Tangled myths and moral networks: Pacific comparanda and the Samothracian Sea", *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*, in I. Berg and L. Hitchcock (ed.s), thematic edition: *The Entangled Sea*, 8 (3-4): 314-328

2020 "Social Mobility: Mithraism and Cosmography in the 2nd-5th centuries CE", *Acta ad archaeologiam et artium historiam pertinentia*, L. Engh, S. Eriksen, F. Steen, C. Prescott (ed.s) special issue: *Tools for Transformation: Liturgy and Religious Practice in Late Medieval Europe*, 31(17): 11-41

2018 "Starry Twins and Mystery Rites: From Samothrace to Mithras," *Acta Classica* 58: 427-463

2018 "Sailing with the Gods: Serious Games in an Ancient Sea", *Thersites* 7: 108-146

2015 "Human geography, GIS technology, and ancient mysteries: a case study from the island of Samothrace," *Getty Research Journal* 7: 133-141

2013 "Daimones in the Thracian Sea: Mysteries, iron, and metaphor," *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 14(1): 155-182

2012 "Toward an archaeology of secrecy: power, paradox, and the Great Gods of Samothrace" in Y. Rowan (ed.), *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual*, Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropology Association, vol. 21(1): 49-71

2010 "Kadmos, Jason, and the Great Gods of Samothrace: initiation as mediation in a Northern Aegean context," *Electronic Antiquity* 11.1

2009 "Ancient Mysteries, Modern Secrets: Introduction," *Electronic Antiquity* 12.1 (2008): 1-22

Selected chapters and contributions

In preparation: "Practical religion: civic honors, information flow, and risk mitigation in a Hellenistic Sea", in E. Angliker and J.T. Jensen (ed.s). *Traveling and Cult Practices in the Ancient Mediterranean*. Routledge

- In preparation "Controlling the Corrupting Sea: maritime rituals and Greek thalassocracy", in C. Rollinger (ed.), *Gefährliche Elemente: Strategien der Beherrschung maritimer Risiken in Antike und Früher Neuzeit*
- Submitted: "Miltiades on the Janiculum: a re-purposed herm in the Aqua Traiana", in A. Wilson (ed.), publication of the Janiculum Mills excavation, American Academy at Rome
- Accepted: "Daimones in and in-between: From Metallurgy to Mobility in the Mysteries of Samothrace", in S. Lunn-Rockcliffe and E. Bakola (ed.s), *Locating the daimonic: Demons, space and place in the ancient Greek World*. Ashgate Press, Aldershot
- Accepted: "From the Mountain to the Sea: Seascapes, Gender, and an Island Cult", in W. Meyer, (ed). IEMA Volume VI: *Engendering Landscape*, Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology. State University of New York Press, Buffalo
- In press: "Strong ties and deep habits: the Samothracian diaspora in network perspective", co-authored with J. Mundy, in A. Collar, (ed.), *Strong Ties. Networks and the Spread of New Ideas in the Past*. Routledge, New York
- In press: "Introduction: New Sciences, Old Gods: A brief history of uneasy bedfellows" and "Agency, affect, games and gods: contributions to a virtual archaeology of religion", in M. Daniels and S. Blakely (ed.s), *Data Science, Human Science, and Ancient Gods: Conversations in Theory and Method*. Lockwood Press, Atlanta
- In press: "Metallurgy", in S. Hornblower, A. Spawforth, E. Eidinow (ed.s), *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, Oxford University Press: Oxford
- 2021 "A cosmological turn in an architectural setting: Roman approaches to Samothrace into the second century CE," in N. Belayche, F. Massa, P. Hoffmann (ed.s), *Les «Mystères au IIe siècle de notre ère: Un 'Mysteric Turn'?* Brepols, Paris: 55-102
- 2020 "Playing the Argonauts: Pedagogical Pathways through Creation and Engagement in a Virtual Sea", in S. Heath and W. Caraher (ed.s), *Digital Approaches to Teaching the Ancient Mediterranean*. The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks: 97-126
- 2020 "Gods, mortals, and models: "Religion and Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean", introduction to S. Blakely and B.J. Collins (ed.s), *Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean*. Lockwood Press, Atlanta: 1-18
- 2020 "Bronze" and "Iron", in C.A. Baron (ed), *The Herodotus Encyclopedia*. Hoboken, Wiley: 245-6, 751-2
- 2019 "Hermes, Kyllene, Samothrace and the Sea," in J. Miller and J. Strauss-Clay (ed.s), *Tracking Hermes, Tracing Mercury*. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 271-292
- 2018 "Images, Merchants, and Mercenaries: Aegeans and Southern Judah in the 8th c BCE", in Z.I. Farber and J.L. Wright (ed.s), *Archaeology and History of 8th century Judah: Festschrift for Oded Borowski*. Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta: 35-57
- 2018 "The Anthropology of an Island Cult: Samothrace and the Science of man in the Nineteenth century", in E. Varto (ed.), *The Classics and Early Anthropology*. Brill, Leiden: 204-230
- 2018 "The Archaeology of Greek Religion", in C. Smith (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer, Cham. https://doi-org.proxy.library.emory.edu/10.1007/978-3-319-51726-1_1437-2
- 2017 "Object, Image and Text: Materiality and Ritual Practice in the Ancient Mediterranean", in S. Blakely (ed.), *Gods, Objects and Ritual Practice*. Lockwood Press, Atlanta: 1-13
- 2016 "Maritime Risk and Ritual Responses: Sailing with the Gods in the Ancient Mediterranean", in C. Buchet and P. de Souza (ed.s), *The Sea in History – The Ancient World*. Association Oceanides, Paris: 362-379
- 2016 "Beyond Braudel: Network models and a Samothracian Seascape", in L. Mazurek and C. Concannon (ed.s), *Across the Corrupting Sea*. Routledge, London: 17-38
- 2016 "Kabeiroi", "Samothrace", and "Superstition", in E. Orlin et al. (ed.s), *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Routledge, New York: 523, 842, 907-910.
- 2007 "Pherekydes' Daktyloi: ritual, technology, and the Presocratic Perspective", *Kernos* 20: 43-67.
- 2000 "Madness in the Body Politic: Kouretes, Korybantes, and the Politics of Shamanism," in J. Hubert, ed., *The Archaeology and Anthropology of Madness, Disability and Social Exclusion*, Part 2 of *Mind and Body in Society*, p. 119-127.

- 1999 "Smelting and Sacrifice: Comparative Analysis of Greek and Near Eastern Cult Sites from the Late Bronze through the Classical Periods," in S.M. Young, M. Pollard, P. Budd, and R.A. Ixer (ed.s). *Metals in Antiquity*. Archaeopress, Oxford: 86-90.

Edited volumes

- Forthcoming, "Data Science, Human Science, and Ancient Gods: Conversations in Theory and Method," co-edited with M. Daniels, *Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, Lockwood Press, Atlanta
- 2019 "Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean," co-edited with B. Collins, *Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, Lockwood Press, Atlanta
- 2017 "Gods, Objects and Ritual Practice," *Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, Lockwood Press, Atlanta
- 2009 "Ancient Mysteries, Modern Secrets," *Electronic Antiquity* 12.1 (2008)

Reviews

- 2021 Cruccas, E. (2019) *NUMINA MAGNA: Roma e il culto dei Grandi Dei di Samotracia* (2019), *BMCR* 2021.02.28
- 2020 Freitag, K. and M. Haake (2019), *Griechische Heiligtümer als Handlungsorte*, *Religious Studies Review* 46(4): 538
- 2019 Braund, D. (2018) *Greek Religion and cults in the Black Sea Region*, *Religious Studies Review* 45 (4): 513
- 2017 Nielsen, I. (2014) *Housing the Chosen: The Architectural Context of Mystery Groups and Religious Associations in the Ancient World*, *American Journal of Archaeology* 121(2): DOI: 10.3764/ajaonline1212.Blakely
- 2016 Arrington, N. (2014) *Ashes, Image, and Memories: The Presence of the War Dead in Fifth-Century Athens*, *The Art Bulletin* 98 (3): 395-397
- 2016 Cruccas, E. (2014) *Gli dei senza nome*, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 136: 260-261.
- 2008 Kyriakidis, E. (2007) *The Archaeology of Ritual*, *BMCR* 2008.07.33
- 2008 Naiden, F. (2006) *Ancient Supplication*, *Classical Bulletin* 84: 111-113,

Online Research presence

<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu.samothraciannetworks/>

Selected presentations

- 2021 "Lemnos in the South Pacific: competition, collaboration, and *Homo Necans*", Society for Biblical Literature, San Antonio, Nov. 20-23
- 2020 "Maritime networks and moral imagination: Samothracian proxeny as an archaeology of coalition", AIA colloquium *Social Networks & Interconnections, Ancient and Medieval Contexts*, Washington D.C., Jan. 3-5
- 2020 "Testing the edges: digital approaches to maritime networks", Department Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania Department of Classics, November 12
- 2019 "Moral networks and complex systems: mobility and anthropogenic safety in a Samothracian Sea", Prendre la Route III: Mobilités et Pratiques rituelles, Journée d'études Paris 8/Paris 10, Nanterre University, Oct. 3
- 2018 "Ritual, Gaming, and the Cognitive Science of Multimodal Communication", International Conference on Multimodal Communication, Hunan Normal University, Changsha, China, Nov. 1-3
- "Playing the Argonauts: pedagogical pathways through creation and engagement in a virtual sea", in *Digital Approaches to Teaching the Ancient Mediterranean*, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York, Oct 26
- "Samothracian Mysteries in the Second century: A cosmological turn in an archaeological context", Les "Mystères" au IIe siècle de notre ère: Un 'Mysteric Turn'? Paris, Sept. 20-22
- "Ritual networks and risk reduction in the Hellenistic Mediterranean", in *Gefährliche Elemente*, Trier, May 3-5

- “Metallurgy between Myth and Production: cognized and operational craft in the Northeastern Aegean” in the panel Contextualizing craftsmanship in the classical world: an “economic” sphere?, International Association for Classical Archaeology, Cologne/Bonn, May 22-26
- “Gaming with the Gods: a crowd sourcing approach to modeling agency in the Samothracian sea” in the panel Gods in our Machines? Critical Approaches to Big Data and Ancient Religion, AIA Annual Meeting, January 4-7
- 2017 “Starry caves and social change: Mithraism in Late Antique Rome”, *Rewiring Romans: Medieval liturgies as tools for Transformation*, Instituto di Norvegia in Roma, June 15-17
- “Samothracian Networks: Maritime risk and Ritual Promises in the ancient Mediterranean”, Complexity Science Hub Vienna, June 19-20
- “Human seascapes and ritual action: modeling the maritime mobilities of the Great Gods of Samothrace”, European Association of Archaeology, Maastricht, Aug. 30 – Sept. 3
- “Seafaring and the Sacred: Maritime networks and the Mysteries of the Great Gods of Samothrace”, Brinkley Lecture, College of William & Mary, October
- “Ritual, ecology and comparison: from Indonesia to the Aegean”, in the panel “Pacific Landscapes through the Holocene”, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, November 29- December 3
- 2016 “Samothracian Networks: Economic Prospects and Ritual Promises in the Hellenistic Mediterranean,” in *Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean*, Palermo, Sicily, June 23-26
- “Mystery Gods at the Circus Maximus: The Samothracian Rites in Rome”, in *Symposium Peregrinum*, Tarquinia, June 16-19
- “Testing the Gods, Saving your Ship,” paper in the panel The Archaeology of Ancient Mediterranean Maritime Religion, AIA Annual Meeting, Jan. 6-9
- 2014 “Beyond Braudel: GIS Technology and a Samothracian Seascape,” AIA Annual Meeting, Jan 2-5
- “Hermes, Kyllene, Samothrace and the Sea,” in *Tracking Hermes*, University of Virginia, Mar. 27-29
- “Samothracian networks: GIS, epigraphy and connectivity at the Greek gateway to the Black Sea,” European Association of Archaeologists, Istanbul, Sept. 10-14
- 2013 “Embodying Samothrace: the mountain and the sea,” Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology Visiting Scholar Conference, SUNY Buffalo, Apr. 13-14
- 2012 “Mapping the Mysteries: GIS as a pedagogical aid in the history of Religions,” CAMWS, Baton Rouge, Mar. 28-31
- “Broken Data, Abstract Models: a digital response to the Samothracian Mysteries,” SAMR conference, Brown University
- 2011 “Modeling the mysteries: GIS technology, network models, and the cult of the Great Gods of Samothrace,” Digital Classicist Seminar Series, King’s College London
- “More than pilgrimage: Samothrace, GIS, and Safety at Sea,” Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Jan. 5-8
- “Mystery gods at the Circus Maximus: Samothracian rites at Rome,” CAMWS, Grand Rapids, April 6-9
- 2010 “From Dardanus to the Philosophers: Initiation and Imagination in Roman Samothrace,” Walsh Lecture, University of Chicago
- 2005 “Iron, invention and cosmology: Greek reflections on the technological past,” Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, Exeter, England

Graduate advising, Ph.D. dissertations

- 2021 Jeon, Donghyun. *The Promise of Initiation: A Comparative Study of Ritual in the Pauline Communities and the Greco-Roman Mysteries*. Graduate Division of Religion.
- 2018 Jones, Kira. *Domitian and Minerva at Rome: Iconography and Divine Sanction in the Eternal City*. Art History.
- 2017 Moore, Eric. *Claiming Places: Reading Acts of the Apostle as a Colonizing Narrative*. Graduate Division of Religion.

- 2013 Ruiz, Gilberto Alfonso. *Temple Commerce and John 2:13-22*. Graduate Division of Religion.
 2008 Palinkas, Jennifer. *Eleusinian Gateways: Entrances to the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Eleusis and the City Eleusinion in Athens*. Art History.

Emory Service

- 2019- Chair, Department of Classics, Emory University
 2017-18 Chair, Humanities Subcommittee, University Research Committee
 2017 Data Science Research and Education at Emory University, Academic Learning Community
 Dean's Achievement Scholars review
 2014-16 Member, University Senate and co-chair of Undergraduate Education working group, Strategic Plan
 2013 Docent training, Carlos Museum: Pyrotechnology and Bronze Age
 2012 Leader, Carlos Museum Reading Group: Prometheus Bound
 2011 Leader, Carlos Museum Reading Group: Theogony
 2011 Leader, Great Works Series, Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry: Odyssey
 2010-13 Chair, Humanities Subcommittee, University Research Committee
 2008-10 Member, Humanities Subcommittee, University Research Committee
 2007-13 Director, Program in Ancient Mediterranean Studies
 2001-21 Local chapter representative, Archaeological Institute of America

Courses taught

- Latin: Elementary and Intensive
 Greek: Elementary, Herodotus, Greek Lyric
 Classical Mythology
 Bronze Age Archaeology
 Greek Archaeology
 Introduction to the Ancient World
 Introduction to Ancient Mediterranean Archaeology
 Greek Civilization
 Early Greece
 Greek and Roman Religion
 Shipwrecks, Pirates and Palaces: the Archaeology of the Ancient Economy
 Pseudo-Archaeology: Ancient Aliens, Lost Cities, and Making Up the Past

Professional Activity

- 2021-24 Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *American Journal of Archaeology*
 2021 Co-organizer with Amelia Brown, *Sailing with the Gods: Religion and Maritime Mobility in the Ancient World*, June 16-21, Floriana, Malta (rescheduled from 2020)
 2021 Co-organizer with Megan Daniels, *The Religion of Little Things: Small Finds and Big Ideas*, AIA annual meeting
 2020 Co-organizer with Eleni Hasaki and Diane Harris Cline, *Social Networks and Interconnections in Ancient and Medieval Contexts*, AIA annual meeting
 2018 Co-Organizer with Megan Daniels, *Gods in Our Machines? Critical Approaches to Big Data and Ancient Religion*, AIA annual meeting
 2017 Co-Organizer with Megan Daniels, *God the Anthropologist: text, material and theory in the study of ancient religion*, AIA annual meeting
 2018-21 Member, Committee on Admissions and Fellowships, American School of Classical Studies; Chair, 2020-21
 2016-18 President, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions
 2015-16 Co-Organizer with Billie Jean Collins, *Religious Convergence in the Ancient Mediterranean*, international conference in Palermo, Sicily
 2013 Organizer, *Gods, Objects and Ritual Practice*, Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions conference at Emory University

- 2013-17 Chair, CAMWS Excavations and Field School Award Committee
2012-13 CAMWS committee on resolutions
2012 Association of Ancient Historians, panel chair, *Historical Geographic Information Systems: Questions and Applications*, University of North Carolina and Duke
2007-11 Member, Committee on Admissions and Fellowships, American School of Classical Studies
2006 Organizer, *Ancient Song in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Ritual, Performance, and History*, conference at Emory University
2002 Organizer, *Conference on the Mysteries: Ancient Mystery Religions and the Anthropology of Secrecy*, Emory University

Archaeological Fieldwork

- 1998-1999 Janiculum Mills Excavation, Andrew Wilson (director), Rome.

Academic Awards

- 2016-17 Residential Scholar, University Indian Ruins, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Tucson
2013-14 Villa Scholar, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
2010-11 Fellow, Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University
2007-10 Winship Distinguished Associate Research Professorship, Emory University
2006-07 Margot Tytus Fellowship, University of Cincinnati
University Research Center grant, Emory University
2003 NEH Summer Seminar, "Roman Religion in its Cultural Context"
2000-01 Junior Fellow, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington DC
1998-99 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Albright Institute, Jerusalem
1998 American Academy in Rome, Summer Program in Archaeology
1997 George A. Barton Fellowship, Albright Institute, Jerusalem
1996-9 Jacob Hirsch Fellowship, American School of Classical Studies, Athens